GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:568
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
FLOOD CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has addressed to the issues relating to flood management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated, released and spent under the aforesaid policy during each of the last three years;and

(d) the strategies adopted by the Union Government for flood management and the success achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 568 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.05.2010 REGARDING "FLOOD CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT".

(a & b) As the subject of flood management falls within the purview of States, the flood control and management schemes are planned, investigated and implemented by the concerned State Governments with their own resources as per the priority within the State. The role of the Union Government is primarily technical, advisory, promotional and catalytic in nature. To enable the State Governments in effective flood management in critical areas, the Union Government formulated strategies/ policies based on the recommendations of various expert forums/ committees. The `National Water Policy -2002` formulated by the Government of India addresses the issues related to flood management. The provisions in National Water Policy-2002 related to flood control and management are as under:

(i) There should be a master plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin.

(ii) Adequate flood-cushion should be provided in water storage projects, wherever feasible, to facilitate better flood management. In highly flood prone areas, flood control should be given overriding consideration in reservoir regulation policy even at the cost of sacrificing some irrigation or power benefits.

(iii) While physical flood protection works like embankments and dykes will continue to be necessary, increased emphasis should be laid on non-structural measures such as flood forecasting and warning, flood plain zoning and flood proofing for the minimization of losses and to reduce the recurring expenditure on flood relief.

(iv) There should be strict regulation of settlements and economic activity in the flood plain zones along with flood proofing, to minimize the loss of life and property on account of floods.

(v) The flood forecasting activities should be modernized, value added and extended to other uncovered areas. Inflow forecasting to reservoirs should be instituted for their effective regulation.

(c) During the XI Plan period (2007-12), for taking up non-structural measures for flood control, a Central Sector Scheme namely, "Flood Forecasting" estimated to cost Rs.130 crore; has been approved for implementation. Besides, the Government of India approved 'in-principle' a state sector scheme, namely `Flood Management Programme (FMP)` for providing central assistance to the States at an estimated cost of Rs.8000 Cr. for taking up river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing works, restoration of damaged flood management works, anti-sea erosion works, etc. which are critical in nature. An Empowered Committee on Flood Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance to consider the proposals for central assistance received from various State Governments to ensure cost effectiveness. As on date, a total of 311 flood management and erosion control works from 19 States have been included under the Programme. Under the scheme, Central assistance to special categories States is being provided at 90% of the cost of the work and 10% of the cost is borne by the States. For other States, the ratio of Central Share to State Share is 75:25. The State-wise details of flood management works included in FMP scheme, the total estimated cost, amount of Central Share and the year-wise Central Assistance released as on 31.3.2010 by the Union Government in the last three years are given in Annex-I. The Planning Commission has provided Rs. 2715

Cr. as the XI plan outlay for the said scheme.

(d) Besides, Central Water Commission, Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board which address the flood problems and advise the State Governments in their respective jurisdictions on flood management issues; the Government of India had also constituted Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) in 1976 to study the entire gamut of flood problems in the country. The RBA submitted its Report in 1980 recommending various measures of flood control. It had estimated that 40 million hectare is flood prone area in the country; out of which an area of 18.22 million hectare has been protected against the floods upto the end of X Plan.

Further, a Task Force on Flood Management/ Erosion Control was set up in 2004 to suggest immediate, short term and long term measures of flood management after unprecedented floods of August-2004 in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal. The Task Force recommended a number of flood management works amounting to Rs. 4982.10 crore to be implemented in next 2 to 7 years period. In order to have long term solution to flood problems of eastern Uttar Pradesh, North Bihar and West Bengal, it recommended that large reservoirs schemes may be taken up on the rivers flowing from Nepal. Accordingly, the Government of India is having continuous dialogue with the neighbouring countries including Nepal on bilateral issues concerning flood management in India. Based upon the recommendations of the Task Force-2004, the flood management works of immediate nature were undertaken in the X Plan and completed as per the details given in Annex-II. The remaining works are covered in the restructured state sector scheme of "Flood Management Programme" (FMP) during XI plan. A total of 117 flood management works under FMP have been completed by the respective State Governments as on 31st March'2010 as per details given in Annex-III.

In addition, the Government of India has set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for management of natural calamities, including floods. The comprehensive guidelines on "Management of Floods" have been issued by NDMA in January 2008. It inter alia, provides for preparation of flood management plans at National, State and District levels covering all aspects of disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system.